

# **Washington State Patrol Media Release**

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: August 9, 2006 / 6:45 p.m.**  
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## **Two Seriously Injured When Car Launches Off SR 16 Near Purdy**

A man and woman were seriously injured when their vehicle went off the road and launched off of westbound SR 16, over an embankment, onto the exit ramp to SR 302. The exit ramp to SR 302 from westbound SR 16 was closed for approximately three hours for the investigation.

The August 9<sup>th</sup> incident occurred just after 3:30 p.m. when witnesses advised that a black 1999 Acura driven by 44 year-old Mary Ann Ralkowski of Port Orchard was seen drifting off the roadway on westbound SR 16 and then went airborne over the embankment. The Acura landed on the off ramp of westbound SR 16 to SR 302 and struck 27 year-old Jefferson Lind of Purdy driving a green 1999 Toyota Pick Up truck. Lind was not injured.

Ralkowski and her passenger 51 year-old Dean Smith of Seattle were both seriously injured and transported to Tacoma General Hospital. Investigators did find evidence of drug use inside the Acura and do believe that drugs and alcohol may have been factors in this tragic collision. Ralkowski may be charged with Vehicular Assault.

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